

metro



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Wednesday, August 15, 2012

THE JERSEY SHORE ON ITS LAST LEGS

► Toxic mix of sewage, overdevelopment and lack of political willpower causing beach and bay towns to deal with closures, disappearing wildlife ► Environmentalists say window is closing on turnaround {page 02}

news

Nine officers testify in 'Strangler' trial

► Graphic details by cops first on scenes
► Judge allows alleged confession {page 05}

the word

Justin Theroux: No. 1 future son-in-law?

► Future Mr. Aniston got his fiancée to make
amends with her estranged mother {page 10}

home

Bringing something special to the table

► Start a container garden and enjoy the
fruits (and vegetables) of your labor {page 20}

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In the news



Santorum back on campaign trail

Former U.S. Sen. Rick Santorum will campaign for his former presidential rival Mitt Romney in the key swing state of Ohio this week, officials with the Romney campaign said. Santorum emerged as Romney's main challenger during their party's state-by-state nominating contest, portraying the former Massachusetts governor as not being a true conservative. Officials said Santorum would make an appearance in Ohio today. **METRO**

Clarification

Metro wishes to clarify a story that appeared in Tuesday's edition, "Confession questioned ahead of 'Strangler' trial," by noting that the only statement so far in court describing the three murdered women as 'prostitutes' came from the defendant. We apologize for any confusion arising from Metro's reporting.



Big winner?

Lottery fever again strikes area companies

Will you be the next "SEPTA 48"?

That's what thousands of people in the Philadelphia region are hoping — perhaps, even praying — with the jackpot for tonight's Powerball drawing at an estimated \$320 million. The lucky group of SEPTA employees who won a

\$172.7 million jackpot in April showed that dedicated office pools are not just for the crazy or superstitious. Their fortune has some thinking they could be next to catch a big break.

Shawn Hawkins, of South Philadelphia, said co-workers in his office play regularly and bought 60 tickets for tonight's

drawing, which has an estimated \$213 million cash payout. He said the group feels better about their chances after the SEPTA winners.

"If it could happen to them, it could happen to us," said Hawkins, who works for a lending institution. "We're all gonna retire [if we win]. We're

not gonna go on the news and talk about how we're gonna keep working."

Lottery officials estimate the chances of winning the jackpot at 1 in 175 million. Four tickets from Saturday's drawing won \$1 million, including one in Delaware County. **METRO/SDL**

Shore full of pollution, yet lacking political will

► Overdevelopment and underregulation blamed for polluting beaches and waters from Seaside Heights to Cape May County ► Ocean City beaches open again after third closure in three weeks

Three Ocean City, N.J., beaches were reopened yesterday after fears that a sewer system backup on Sunday may have caused waste to flow into storm drains that empty into the ocean. It was the third such closure in Ocean City in the past three weeks.

A day earlier and about an hour and a half north in the barrier island town of Lavelette, Rutgers University scientist Michael Kennish presented to state lawmakers a study he co-authored concluding that the ecological decline of Barnegat Bay, which encompasses more than 42 miles of the New Jersey shoreline, is worse than previously esti-

mated — and spreading.

"They are all a direct result of overdevelopment," said Jeff Tittel of Sierra Club's New Jersey chapter, on both the beach closures and bay decline.

Chemicals from all of that waste are increasingly carried by storm water runoff into rivers, creeks and inlets that ultimately feed into the ocean, causing algae overgrowth, marine life death and water stagnation. Environmentalists say Barnegat Bay is emblematic of a larger decline in New Jersey's coastal waterways.

"If you run from Bayhead all the way to Cape May, there are many lagoonal areas, or back bay systems, even behind Ocean City and Atlantic City and so on," Kennish said yesterday. "They are all very susceptible to this problem."

Researchers are now focusing on the question of whether the tide of deterioration can be reversed.

"In the case of Barnegat Bay, over the last 20 years, the water quality has dropped about 70 percent," Tittel said. "If we continue the same pattern, there will not be a bay in another 20 years. It will be a large, polluted detention basin. ... Oceans are more resilient, but again, if every time it rains we're closing beaches, it will start shaking people to other places. If people on vacation and can't go swimming, they may want to go somewhere else."



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► Crowded beaches in Ocean City, shown here north of 12th Street, were closed two days this week.

'More political will' needed

New Jersey Gov. Chris Christie has come under fire for the way he has been handling the environmental emergency. Though he released a 10-point plan two years ago outlining how the state will deal with Barnegat Bay, many say he hasn't held up his end of the bargain — or isn't moving quickly

enough.

"The 10 point action plan is good," Kennish said. "The blueprints for fixing the problems that are on the table are good. I think they need to be really accelerated, that's the problem — it's not enough. The plan to fix it is there, but there's not enough actual implementation on some of those things."

Tittel went a step further. "It's going to take more political will than the governor is

showing," he said, ticking off bills vetoed by Christie that would have set cleanup requirements for the bay and a storm water utility to fund cleaning and retrofitting water basins. "He's going to have to say no to developers and spend some money or we're going to lose the bay. He's good at photo ops and beach walks, but the 10-point plan, because it includes no funding for fixing water basins, doesn't do a lot."

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Accreditation Penn State's new hurdle

PENNSYLVANIA. Penn State University has been warned it could lose its accreditation because of the child sex scandal involving former assistant football coach Jerry Sandusky.

The Middle States Commis-

sion on Higher Education told Penn State last week that its accreditation was in jeopardy because of the findings of an independent investigation into the Sandusky scandal and sanctions imposed on the high-profile football program. Accreditation guarantees the educational standards of a university and the validity of its degrees. It is crucial for drawing students and receiving public financing.

"I am confident that we will fully demonstrate our fiscal stability."

ERICKSON

Penn State "remains accredited while on warning," the commission said in an Aug. 8 letter to university President Rodney Erickson that the school made public. **REUTERS**

State lawmakers debating pension reform in the wake of Sandusky fallout

► Prosecutor tells lawmakers of big loopholes in state laws governing pension forfeiture of public employees convicted of felonies

Pennsylvania should bolster pension-forfeiture rules for public employees, according to Frank Fina, the chief deputy state attorney general who helped convict Jerry Sandusky on child sex-abuse charges.

Public employees only lose taxpayer-funded pensions if they're convicted of a crime in which they used their office to help commit it under current law. In addition, the victims of school employees must be students and not all of 68-year-old Sandusky's victims were, Fina told a state legislative hearing yesterday.

Lawmakers convened the meeting to discuss pension-related bills.

Sandusky, a former Pennsylvania State University assistant football coach, was convicted in June on 45 criminal counts tied to the abuse of 10 boys over a 15-year period, including attacks in the school's athletic facilities. He played and coached for more than 30 years before retiring in 1999 with a pension of almost \$59,000 a year, according to the Harrisburg Patriot-News.

House Bill 2469 was introduced in June and wouldn't be



► Sandusky

retroactive if passed, according to its current language.

Any public employee or public official convicted of a felony would automatically lose his or her pension under the legislation.

"As currently written, Pennsylvania's Public Employee Pension Forfeiture Act fails to revoke the pensions of those who commit the most heinous crimes," state Rep. Fred Keller, a Middleburg Republican who introduced the bill, said in a June 14 statement.

"[His measure] will guarantee that any public employee or official who violates the public trust will automatically forfeit his or her taxpayer-funded pension," Keller said. **BLOOMBERG**

Seeing Penn State through the turmoil

When New York banker Karen Peetz joined Penn State's board of trustees two years ago, the Jerry Sandusky child sex abuse scandal was still hidden from the public eye.

Peetz, a distinguished alum who was named American Banker's 2011 Most Powerful Woman in Banking and works at the Bank of New York Mellon Corp., is now tasked with chairing the board in its most trying times. Corporate governance

experts say the dual role of Peetz presents risk to both her employer and alma mater.

"From BNY's perspective, the argument is strong to let her to continue to provide leadership in cleaning up the mess while getting credit for giving her the space to do the job," said James Post, a Boston University management and ethics professor. "For her to do a bad job is probably the worst of all possible worlds for BNY Mellon and Penn State."

The 56-year-old has climbed the ranks at BNY Mellon over a 14-year career after jumping from JPMorgan Chase in 1998. **REUTERS**

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Nine officers testify in trial of 'Strangler'

► Cops give graphic testimony on first official day
► Judge expected to rule on case by end of the week

Clad in a white tee shirt, blue sweat pants and ankle shackles, Antonio Rodriguez entered the courtroom, looked at his loved ones in the audience and shook his head as if in disgust.

"What, are you having a bad day?" a man with the families of Elaine Goldberg and Nicole Piacentini grumbled sarcastically from the audience.

Those were the most tense moments in the first day of Rodriguez's first-degree murder trial. The 23-year-old stands accused of strangling three women with whom he had sex as the so-called "Kensington Strangler" in late 2010.

Nine police officers testified yesterday about finding the bodies of Goldberg, Piacentini and Casey Mahoney in seedy lots in the city's Kensington section between Nov. 3 and Dec. 15, 2010. Each of the women were found in a kneeling position, face down and partially naked, the officers testified.

Earlier in the day, Common Pleas Court Judge Jeffrey Minehart denied a motion by defense attorney William Bowe to dismiss three sworn statements Rodriguez made to police the night of his arrest Jan. 17, 2011. Minehart said homicide detectives sufficiently warned Ro-



► An investigator searched a scene in Kensington in 2010.

Court resumes tomorrow

The case is recessed until tomorrow, when someone from the Medical Examiner's Office is expected to testify. The non-jury trial is expected to conclude this week before Minehart makes his decision. Rodriguez agreed to a non-jury trial in exchange for not facing the death penalty if convicted. Instead, a conviction would mean a mandatory life sentence with no chance of parole.

driguez of his rights and that the statements were given voluntarily.

As part of the motion hearing Monday, homicide Detective James Pitts read the graphic details of Rodriguez' statements, articulating how the suspect had sex with each of the women and choked them during intercourse. According to Pitts, Rodriguez said he propped Piacentini up in the back of an abandoned house after she appeared to be dead and continued to have intercourse with her.

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In the news

Pervert strikes four times in South Philly

SOUTH PHILADELPHIA. Police are looking for a man who they say exposed himself to four women within half an hour in the Pennsport and East Passyunk sections Monday morning.

In the first incident, investigators say a woman, 22, was walking north on the 1100 block of South 2nd Street near

Ellsworth Street at 8:55 a.m., when an unknown man approached her from behind and indecently assaulted her.

Fifteen minutes later, a woman, 27, was walking east on the 100 block of Ellsworth Street — about a block away — when an unknown man approached her. She noticed that his pants were unzipped and his genitals were exposed and called police as he fled on foot. Ten minutes after that, a woman, 67, was walking on the 1800 block of South 10th Street near Moore Street in the East Passyunk

neighborhood, about a mile away, when a man standing next to a parked car attempted to engage her in conversation. She noticed that his genitals were exposed and he was touching himself, and she called police. Five minutes later, a woman, 65, was sitting in front of her home on South 9th Street, when a man walking by stopped and attempted to speak with her. She noticed his genitals were exposed and that he was touching himself and immediately went inside her residence and called police. **METRO/AW**

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Standard Chartered reaches \$340 million settlement over Iran

Standard Chartered Plc has agreed to pay \$340 million to settle allegations by New York's bank regulator that it hid transactions linked to Iran.

The announcement yesterday capped a weeklong transatlantic dispute over the U.S. investigation of a British bank and a furor over why New York Superintendent of Financial Services Benjamin Lawsky had acted independently of U.S. federal agencies.

The resolution also came after London-based Standard Chartered's chief executive, Peter Sands, flew to New York to take control of negotiations and less than 24 hours before the bank was scheduled to defend itself at a high-stakes hearing.

Lawsky on Aug. 6 said Standard Chartered had hidden Iran-linked transactions with a total value of \$250 billion, calling it a "rogue institution" for



► Standard Chartered in London

breaking U.S. sanctions laws.

Standard Chartered confirmed that the two sides had

agreed the terms of an agreement, including the payment of \$340 million. **REUTERS**



► Zimmerman, 28, has pleaded not guilty to second-degree murder in the Feb. 26 shooting death of Martin.

George Zimmerman makes another appeal for a new trial judge

The lawyer for George Zimmerman, who is charged in the shooting death of unarmed black teenager Trayvon Martin, filed an appeal on Monday in a renewed attempt to seek a new judge in the case.

Mark O'Mara told reporters he asked a Florida appeals court to reconsider a ruling by

Judge Kenneth Lester refusing to step down from the case.

In a motion filed last month, O'Mara claimed Lester made "gratuitous" and "disparaging remarks" about Zimmerman and showed bias in a July 5 ruling that raised Zimmerman's bond from \$150,000 to \$1 million. **REUTERS**

In the news

Burmese python sets Florida record

ORLANDO, FLA. A Burmese python found in Florida set records as the largest such snake ever captured in the state, at 17-foot-7, and the most prolific reproducer, carrying a record load of 87 eggs, according to researchers.

The previous Florida record setters were a 16-foot-8 python and 85 eggs.

"It was huge," said Paul Ramey, spokesman for the Florida Natural History Museum at the University of Florida in Gainesville.

To perform the necropsy, researchers "had to put three tables together and it took at least four people to pick it up and get it on the tables," Ramey said yesterday. **REUTERS**

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Gov Christie to headline GOP



JEFF ZELEVANSKY/GETTY IMAGES

► Chris Christie had been mentioned as a possible vice presidential pick.

New Jersey Gov. Chris Christie will deliver keynote address when Republicans gather this month for their national convention before the November presidential election, the party said yesterday.

Christie, a colorful speaker popular among fiscal conservatives in his party, had considered a U.S. presidential run himself before endorsing Mitt Romney, who will become the official Republican presidential nominee at the gathering.

U.S. Senator Marco Rubio will introduce Romney at the convention, a Republican official also said. Rubio's home state of Florida — a battleground contest in November — will host the convention Aug. 27 to Aug. 30 in Tampa.

"As governor of New Jersey, Chris Christie has proven how bold Republican leadership gets results," Republican National Committee Chairman Reince Priebus said in a statement.

"We have an opportunity in Tampa to make clear that if we tell each other the hard truths, tackle the big problems and make bold choices, we will see America's comeback," he said.

Christie has been a rising national figure in the Republican Party and has received praise for tax cuts, trimming the budget and other measures in his mid-Atlantic state.

The governor will argue for shared sacrifice to address the country's problems, according to USA Today.

Quoted

"As governor of New Jersey, Chris Christie has proven how bold Republican leadership gets results."

REPUBLICAN NATIONAL COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN REINCE PRIEBUS

"I'll try to tell some very direct and hard truths to people in the country about the trouble that we're in."

CHRIS CHRISTIE TOLD USA TODAY

Ryan 'bounce' yet to arrive

Mitt Romney received no immediate boost to his White House bid by naming U.S. Representative Paul Ryan as his running mate, according to a Reuters/Ipsos poll released yesterday.

Some 51 percent of those surveyed said the decision

did not change their opinion of Romney, a former private-equity executive and Massachusetts governor who will face President Barack Obama in the Nov. 6 election.

Another 26 percent in the online poll said they viewed Romney more favorably after he added the 42-year-old Wisconsin congressman to the ticket. **REUTERS**

8/27/12

Republican National Convention Aug. 27 to Aug. 30 in Tampa, Florida

"I'll try to tell some very direct and hard truths to people in the country about the trouble that we're in and the fact that fixing those problems is not going to be easy for any of them," he told the newspaper on Monday.

Obama senior campaign adviser David Axelrod said Christie, with his lacerating wit, will be an entertaining speaker. **REUTERS**

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Election

Weight of a campaign: Surveying the fit and unfit to lead

U.S. Rep. Paul Ryan is many things to many people: darling to the conservative cause, Congress' fiscal whiz kid and would-be destroyer of America's social safety net to liberals everywhere.

But muscle-toned hulk of Washington, D.C.? Have you seen those guns? (And we're not talking about the bullet-shooting types.)

Popular gossip sites like Gawker and TMZ have already ballyhooed his physique, but it's far from over. Consider one TMZ



► Ryan



► The Hulk

producer's demand during Monday's television broadcast in a segment about Ryan: "We need a shot of his abs!"

He's not the first hot vice

presidential candidate — see: Sarah Palin, 2008 — but he might just be the most jacked. Metro took a look back at the history of Veep figures. **BRIAN X. MCCRONE**

Sizing them up

Paul Ryan

Height: 6-foot-1
Weight: 163 pounds
Workout regimen: Tony Horton's "P90X" fitness program and the "Insanity" workout.
Detail: A policy wonk who loves crunching macroeconomic numbers, he also has 6-to-8 percent body fat.

John Adams

Height: 5 feet 7 inches
Weight: Unknown, but his



► Adams

nickname among Founding Fathers was "His Rotundity" both for his girth and love of power.

Workout regimen: He liked to walk far distances.
Detail: We've been taught to believe (i.e., watched on HBO) that our country's first vice president looked like Paul Giamatti and wore one of those British whigs.

Chester Arthur

Height: 6-foot-2
Body mass index: 28.7 (30 or more is obese)
Workout regimen: Taking trips to Florida and Yellowstone National Park to refresh the spirit.
Detail: He successfully hid a



► Arthur

disease upon taking office, but the man who served as the nation's 20th vice president and eventually the 21st president weighs in as our sixth-fattest commander-in-chief ever.

Jack Kemp

Height: 6-foot-1
Weight: 201 pounds
Workout regimen: Playing professional football for 10 years as starting quarterback with four NFL teams.
Detail: Kemp was larger than most politicians when he became a household name as Republican presidential candidate Bob Dole's veep pick, but it was because he was a one-time world-class athlete.



► Kemp

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Limerick, PA - Fred Beans, CEO and Founder of the Fred Beans Family of Dealerships located in Limerick PA, has announced a **ONE DAY SALE** on Saturday, August 18th at 9:00AM, where pre-owned vehicles will be sold for as low as **\$999**. This sale is being held due to overwhelming public demand.

Cars will be clearly marked, so come early for the best selection. This is a **ONE DAY ONLY** sale designed to get the local community driving again.

Fred Beans' pre-owned inventory levels need to be reduced to make room for shipments of new models arriving daily. As a result, **all 3 Fred Beans Limerick locations are selling these overstocked pre-owned vehicles to the public at drastic discounts in an attempt to clear excess inventory.**

In addition to this huge variety of

pre-owned vehicles, the Fred Beans Family of Dealerships in Limerick features new Chevrolet, Nissan and Kia vehicles.

Fred Beans believes reviving the economy starts at home, and changing things locally will lead to changing things nationally.

In addition to the Fred Beans Family of Dealerships' extra inventory, additional vehicles have been acquired at incredible prices from various banks, repossession companies, auto auctions, credit unions, lease companies, and rental companies for this sale.

The sale will make pre-owned vehicles available for as low as **\$999**, prices not normally offered to the general public. According to Fred Beans, **"We want to give our customers a reason to believe in the local economy again. Someone has to look out for their best interests."**

Customers are encouraged to arrive and register by 8:15AM to inspect the entire inventory and find the car that is right for them. Every vehicle will be cleaned, detailed, and fully prepared for instant delivery. On the evening of August 17th after

close of business, Mr. Beans and his team will mark the special sale price on each and every vehicle.

Because Fred Beans' customers are feeling the credit crunch right now, the Fred Beans Automotive Group has given the dealerships' financing managers the resources necessary to get most customers' credit approved on the spot.

The Fred Beans Family of Dealerships has \$10,000,000 in lending power, the result of over 50 years of strong relationships with the area's leading lenders. This means that customers with "less than perfect" credit history can have their credit approved and drive a quality pre-owned car, truck, or SUV home by lunchtime on Saturday.

Even if a customer's credit report shows a bankruptcy, divorce, tax lien, slow payment history, missed payment, or repossession, or if a customer is a first time buyer, Fred Beans may get them approved.

This special **ONE DAY ONLY** sale will be held at all 3 Fred Beans Limerick locations this Saturday, August 18th, at 9:00AM.

Pre-owned vehicles will be sold for as low as **\$999**. Customers are encouraged to arrive and register by 8:15AM for

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Customers wishing to trade in a vehicle are asked to bring their title or payment book for immediate delivery. Fred Beans will even pay off your trade-in in full, no matter how much you still owe on it.

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THE WORD



Metro's **Monica Weymouth** shares her take on the world of gossip [@monicaatmetro](#) monica.weymouth@metro.us

Aniston will expand her wedding guest list

ALL PHOTOS: GETTY IMAGES

Although he's been engaged to **Jennifer Aniston** for less than a week, **Justin Theroux** is already proving to be quite the family man. After years of estrangement, he's convinced Aniston to add her mother, **Nancy Dow**, to the wedding guest list.

"Justin comes from a tight-knit family [that] he is very close to. He preaches family values to Jennifer and he said to her he'd love a private, low-key ceremony with all their family members present," a source tells RadarOnline.

Aniston didn't invite Dow to her wedding to **Brad Pitt** in 2000 — which was only one year after Dow released an unwelcome book about her daughter — but the actress has since softened her stance. "She agreed, said she'd forgiven her mom for her past discrepancies, and that Nancy should be a guest at her second wedding," the source tells Radar.

Is it a nice gesture? We guess. But this is like getting left out of the beach trip, then invited to the sandy drive home.

Bam Margera still being Bam Margera

Employees at the Charlotte



► Say hello to Jen and Justin, who we are obligated to stalk for the next couple months.

Douglas International Airport refused to let **Bam Margera** board his plane Sunday afternoon because he smelled of booze and was combative, reports TMZ. The former "Jackass" star was eventually handcuffed and detained by airport police, but he denies being drunk. Instead, he's offered TMZ an explanation that only Bam Margera would consider an explanation: The hangover smell was "left over" from the day before, and the "loud and obnoxious" behavior was simply business as usual.

Posh Spice has plans

After rumblings that **Victoria Beckham** had expensive wardrobe demands for the Spice Girls' performance at the Olympics Closing Ceremony, sources tell Hollyscoop that she declined to attend an after-party with her former bandmates. "Everyone was a little disappointed that she did not come out to celebrate after," a source tells the site.

Ladies, perhaps you've heard of **David Beckham**, aka the Ultimate Spice Girls After-Party.

Talking points

Forbes not waiting for the press release

While the world waits for word on the status of **Robert Pattinson** and **Kristen Stewart**'s relationship after Stewart's admission of cheating, the folks at *Forbes* magazine seem to have drawn their own conclusions. When the magazine released its Highest Paid Celebrity Couples list last week, it left off Pattinson and Stewart, who ranked fifth last year. "Stewart and Pattinson were, in fact, left off the list because they are broken up," a magazine rep tells the *Huffington Post*.

just pulling your hair out. The same as anyone who wants to be with their kid or husband," she says.

Stallone on family's 'horrible situation'

In an interview with "Good Morning America," **Sylvester Stallone** opened up for the first time about the recent death of his son, **Sage Stallone**. "It's tough. It's very very tough," Stallone says. "It's a horrible situation but, time, hopefully, will heal — and you try to get through it. It's something that's a reality in life." The actor and director, who is busy promoting "The Expendables 2," recognizes that keeping busy can be helpful: "It's important to get back and try to start reliving your life. Otherwise you can go into a spiral."

No love at first sight for Rachel Weisz

Though usually averse to discussing her marriage to **Daniel Craig**, **Rachel Weisz** lets a few personal questions into her interview in the new issue of the U.K. edition of *Marie Claire*. "It wasn't really like that," Weisz insists when asked if it was love at first sight with Craig. "We'd been friends for ages." She's even more forthcoming on the subject of being a working wife and mother. "Like any job, there are days when you're



► Stallone

The feed ...

► Checking in with some of Hollywood's biggest names to see what they've been up to — in their own words, in 140 characters or fewer.

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WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 15, 2012

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Red carpet people watching

1. "The Expendables 2" stars clean up pretty nice: From left they're, **Jean-Claude Van Damme**, **Jason Statham**, **Arnold Schwarzenegger**, **Sylvester Stallone**, **Dolph Lundgren** and **Scott Adkins**.

2. **Chloe Sevigny** stepped out at the "Lawless" screening in New York on Monday.

3. How much crazy can you pack into one photo? **Lindsay Lohan** surfaced at **will.i.am**'s album wrap party on Monday night.

4. **Usain Bolt** is one of the few people who aren't in "The Expendables 2." The Olympic gold medalist was, however, at the film's U.K. premiere.

5. **Robert Pattinson** has had a rough couple of weeks, but you couldn't tell at the premiere of his latest film, "Cosmopolis," on Monday night. (**Kristen Stewart** was reportedly banned from the event.)

6. Miss USA 2012 **Olivia Culpo** was one of the many ladies who happened to bring her A-game to the "Cosmopolis" red carpet.



1-5: LARRY BUSACCA/GETTY IMAGES
2-6: DAVID J. PHILLIPS/GETTY IMAGES
3: MICHAEL LOCKES/GETTY IMAGES
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WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 15, 2012

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The softer side of Joel Edgerton

► The 'Warrior' star shows off his sensitive side — and updates us on his upcoming film, 'The Great Gatsby'

Joel Edgerton is a bit preoccupied with a tan fedora, taking it on and off as we start our interview. "It was a gift from someone from down in Venice," the Australian actor says, adding that he would consider himself a "hat person" if it weren't for one pesky detail: "I've got a massive head, so it's hard to find them. I think this is the Indiana Jones in me trying to get out," he offers with a laugh. Edgerton is in town to talk about his latest film, "The Odd Life of Timothy Green," but that's not all he's got coming up.

American audiences are still getting familiar with you, but even so, this is a different kind of role for you. How has it been presenting that?

It's almost easier, in a way. Playing a role like Jim is kind of almost closer to me than "Warrior" is. You either have the same experiences, family-wise, that your character does, or you have to alter them in some way or invent them. ... It's easier to kind of lean on



► Jennifer Garner and Joel Edgerton star in "The Odd Life of Timothy Green" with newcomer CJ Adams.

those things like violence and aggression as male emotions, but it's more interesting to look for the softer elements, you know?

This seemed a lot like a Frank Capra-style character to me.

A lot of the times as an actor, you wonder if you fit into that everyman category and those characters that we hope the best for. It's hard for me to talk about myself like that, but I can definitely see that in [co-star] Jennifer [Garner]. ... I relate to her ordinariness.

You've described the 3-D in your upcoming film, the remake of "The Great Gatsby," as "gentle." Can you elaborate on that?

They have the ability to alter how much like a pop-up book it really looks. I remember [director] Baz [Luhrmann] showed 15 minutes of an overview of the movie, and I forgot that I was wearing the glasses.

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METRO WORLD NEWS IN LOS ANGELES

TV watch list



► "Oh Sit!"

'Oh Sit!'

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'Shark Fight'

REALITY. In the shark versus man bout, we give the decision to shark. Points go to his horrific technique, as seen in these gnarly reenactments of humans encountering jaws firsthand. Shark Week, 9 p.m., Discovery Channel

'American Hogs'

REALITY. When boars go wild, the Campbell family steps in to take care of the feral hogs. When the Campbell family goes wild, cameras keep on rolling. Season premiere, 10 p.m., A&E
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myentertainment

'Much Ado' about LGBTQ adaptation

► Mauckbird Theatre Co. puts its own spin on gay plays ► How Shakespeare is getting gender-bent

Before arriving in Philadelphia, Peter Reynolds worked as an actor, director and theater administrator in Chicago, where he became an admirer of About Face Theater, a company that specializes in LGBTQ-themed plays.

For all of the boundless growth of Philadelphia's theater scene over the past 20 years, there has never been a sustainable LGBTQ-themed local company — until now.

Along with local performer Lindsay Mauck, Reynolds founded Mauckbird Theatre Company in 2008. But the pair has crafted a very different vision than their forerunners at About Face. Mauckbird is perhaps the only company in the country focused on producing classic texts through an LGBTQ lens. Its latest, which opens Friday, is a 90-minute gender-liberated adaptation of Shakespeare's "Much Ado About Nothing."

"When we founded the company, I didn't feel there were a lot of gay plays out there that I was interested in," says Reynolds, who is also directing "Much Ado." "There were a number that could be nicknamed 'underwear plays,'



► Cameron Slusser, left, and Griffin Back star in "Much Ado About Nothing."

IAN PAUL GUZZONE

where the play is really an opportunity for the boys to take their clothes off. I had no interest in that. I was interested in telling good stories, and classic stories."

Over the past four and a half years, Mauckbird has created 10 productions, but the company has had to do it on a shoestring budget, even by indie theater standards. It has proved more than challenging to create grant revenue for a gay-themed company. According to Reynolds, 90 percent of Mauckbird's total budget comes from ticket sales — an unheard-of figure in non-profit theater.

"It's important that we communicate what we mean by 'gender-bending' theater. We're not casting a man to play Beatrice [in 'Much Ado'] as a woman. We're casting a man to play Beatrice as a gay man. There's an enormous difference there," says Reynolds. "The texts are so strong — Moliere, Shakespeare — they've survived for generations, and I think it's important for us to see what happens when we look at them in this way."

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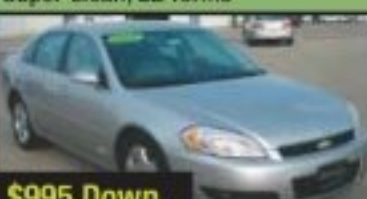
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WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 15, 2012

mywellbeing

Bret Michaels: How I stay healthy

► Let the rocker talk dirty to you about his diabetic lifestyle and his postsurgical return to exercise

Bret Michaels knows a thing or two about fitness, but he's learned the hard way. The Poison singer and "Rock of Love" and "Life As I Know It" star is a lifelong diabetic who recently recovered from both brain and heart surgery. Michaels turns 50 next March, and despite a bump in his personal life (he just split from his fiancée, with whom he has two daughters), he's busy completing summer tours, playing solo shows and teaming up with Poison again. The rocker, who made VH1's upcoming 100 Sexiest Artists list, shares his fitness insight with us.

On the road or off, the diet is on

"Being a diabetic since I was a kid, I've learned to watch what I eat," he says. "The first thing I do every morning is check my blood sugar levels. Then I'll have breakfast — usually an egg white omelet, stuff I like to eat. Nothing too elaborate. It's usually the same routine, but I don't deny myself. These days, there's so much choice when you're traveling that it's easy to stick to a healthy diet."

Keeping up his stamina for a busy career

"I love to eat, I love food. But being a diabetic, I have to watch my carb intake," Michaels says. "I grew up in an environment where you ate three big meals a day. But as a diabetic, I had to break those into smaller meals out of necessity. But it's a healthier way to eat."

His postop recovery and returning to exercise

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► Michaels plays with Def Leppard and the boys of Poison tonight at Hersheypark Stadium. Visit www.ticketmaster.com for details.

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ed thinking, 'I have to do something. I can't just wait,'" he says. "I started slowly and built back from there. I work out every day. I mountain bike, I run. It's not about how I look, though — it's all about making me feel good so that I want to perform."

LINDA CLARKE
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Americans need to jump off the wagon

Gov. Romney is the only man who can stop this country from going off a fiscal cliff. We will pale in comparison to what is happening in Greece. The U.S. can not handle four more years as an entitlement nation. We have too many people riding the wagon and not enough people pulling it. Please wake up. Your future and your children's depends on it.

JOHN MCLAUGHLIN, VIA E-MAIL

No wake-up alarm needed, thanks

RE: "THE DIFFERENCE BETWEEN OPINIONS AND BABY BIRDS" (METRO, AUG. 14) I find it strange that Mr. Brittle's unique "opinion" seems to be the same opinion held by the majority of left-wing

lunatics. Any opinion that conflicts with their delusional worldview is somehow wrongheaded and false. They attribute to FOX some supernatural ability to brainwash the masses, but not themselves. They are the last of the ever-shrinking pool of sane people in the world. Only they possess the mental ability to govern the foolish and mentally defective herd. Mr. Brittle's comments demonstrate the contempt leftists have for the majority of their countrymen and the insanity of their ideology.

J.D. TORDOFF, VIA E-MAIL

Untruthful? Let me count the ways

RE: "BIGGER ISSUES NO EXCUSE FOR HIDING" (METRO, AUG. 14) Before we go naming the

ways that Romney is not being truthful, I think David D'Amico should tally up some of the things Obama has kept hidden, since he is, after all, our president for at least a few more months. There's the supercilious executive privilege over what really happened with Fast and Furious. There's the surreptitious signing of the NDAA on New Year's Eve. And lastly, will his buddy John Corzine ever get his comeuppance for "misplacing" billions and then perjuring himself in front of Congress? I am highly dubious, to say the least.

HANS HAUGEN, VIA E-MAIL

Obama's cap has got more feathers

RE: "THERE'S ALWAYS THE ROAD LESS TAKEN" (METRO, AUG. 14)

Obama's policies are not making matters worse. In one year of his presidency, he created more jobs than Bush did in his eight years in office.

He killed Osama, after Bush vowed swift revenge, and ended the war in Iraq. I would continue, but that is already more than Bush accomplished. It is unequivocally the obstructionist members of Congress that impede Obama's progress.

STEVEN DOURDIS, VIA E-MAIL

Caption contains sin of omission

RE: "THREE DEAD IN SHOOTING NEAR TEXAS A&M" (METRO, AUG. 14) The caption says, "Shooting comes less than four weeks after a man opened fire in a crowded Colorado movie theater." Conspicuous in its omission was the Sikh temple shooting in Wisconsin that happened less than two weeks ago. What are Sikhs (and other minorities)? Chopped liver?

NICK KARTER, VIA E-MAIL

Horoscope

♌ Leo July 23-Aug. 22. In certain situations where you are required to exercise authority over others, make your wishes known in as pleasant a manner as possible in order to get your way.

♍ Virgo Aug. 23-Sept. 22. Things in general should work out rather well due to your shrewd use of your assets and abilities. What your logic overlooks, your instincts will take care of.

♎ Libra Sept. 23-Oct. 23. Perhaps one of your greatest gifts is your ability to get along with people from all walks of life. This splendid quality is likely to be in big effect currently.

♏ Scorpio Oct. 24-Nov. 22. Try to focus your efforts on meaningful objectives while you're in such a good achievement cycle. Don't waste your time on matters of little significance.

♐ Sagittarius Nov. 23-Dec. 21. It behooves you to treat developments philosophically, regardless of whether they are beneficial or harmful. A good attitude keeps things in perspective.

♑ Capricorn Dec. 22-Jan. 19. An investment does not have to produce a huge profit in order to be classified as a success. Be alert for all kinds of opportunities, both big and small.

♒ Aquarius Jan. 20-Feb. 19. Should

a difficult decision vie for your attention, face up to it courageously. Being wishy-washy is the worst thing you can do, and it would more than likely lead to your defeat.

♓ Pisces Feb. 20-March 20. Instead of just doing what is expected of you, go for broke and produce as much as you can. Your industriousness will not go unnoticed or unrewarded.

♈ Aries March 21-April 19. Anything you can handle yourself should not be pawned off onto someone else. You're on a roll, but others may not be. So do the chores yourself, and everyone will end up happy.

♉ Taurus April 20-May 20. Be the one who moves forward on a deal, even if those with whom you're involved don't want to come on board. Conditions favor finalizing matters to your satisfaction.

♊ Gemini May 21-June 20. Even if you have to put your salesmanship skills to the test, it shouldn't be too hard for you to come away with what you want, regardless of how tough your prospect is.

♋ Cancer June 21-July 22. Small details could actually be of far greater significance than the larger issues. Fortunately for you, these critical factors aren't likely to escape your attention.

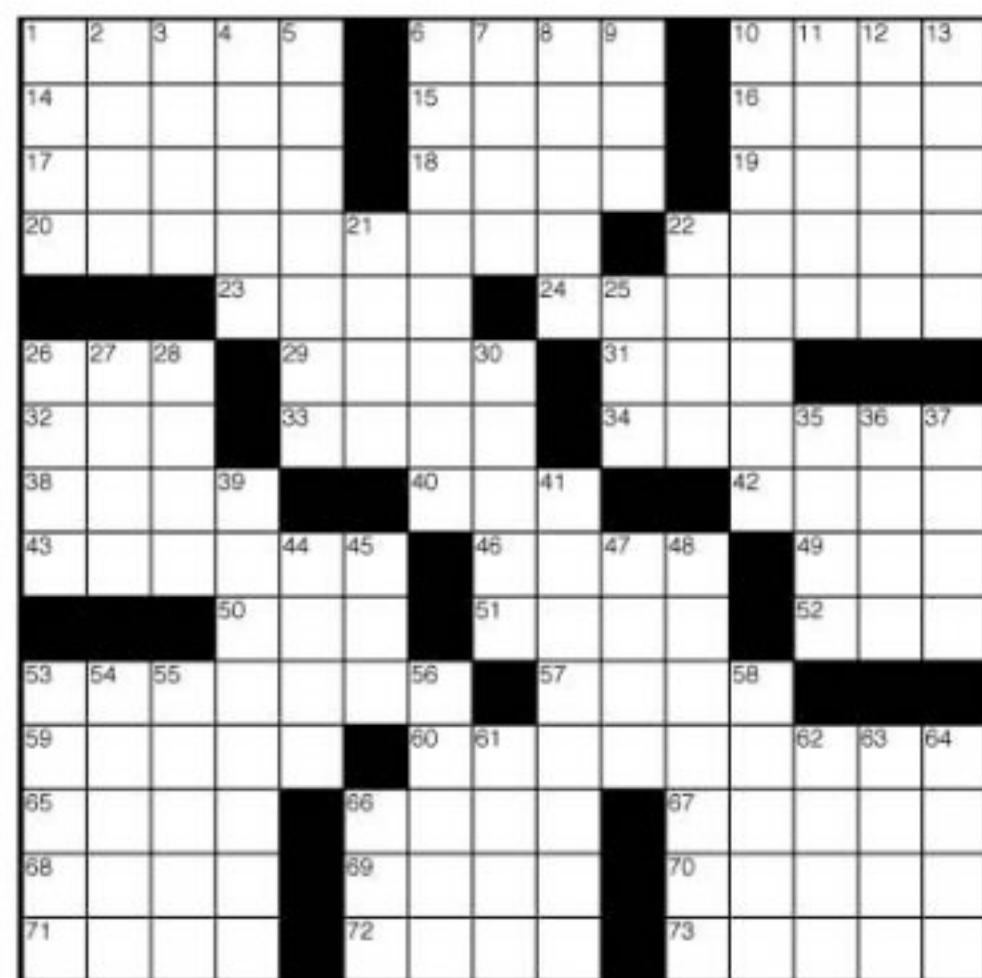
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Across

- 1 Conceited
6 Ice floe dweller
10 Outer garment
14 Major oil hub
15 Yank
16 ___ Krishna
17 Steve or Woody
18 Haik wearer
19 Livy's route
20 Got a letter (2 wds.)
22 Thorn
23 Kind of worm
24 Nocturnal wildcats
26 Weightlifter's pride
29 Lampreys
31 Ms. Thurman
32 Sea, to Cousteau
33 Noticed
34 Minor accident
38 Edges a doily
40 Period
42 Lunar phenomenon
43 Pollen-bearer
46 Excites
49 Chaotic place
50 Mine find
51 Vast number
52 Mongkut portrayer
53 Botches
57 Director ___ Kazan
59 Campaign issue
60 Benchmark
65 Focal points
66 Killer whale
67 Ruckus (hyph.)
68 Aspirin target
69 Actor Brad ___
70 HOF Denver QB
71 Koh-i-___ (famed diamond)
72 Cut some slack
73 Gray rock

Down

- 1 Chief god of Memphis



- 2 Pass judgment
3 Earthen pot
4 Techies' clients
5 Fops
6 Glittered
7 Kind of dollar
8 Hertz rival
9 Attorney's deg.
10 Rear-ender injury
11 Proportion
12 "You ___ serious!"
13 Dijon daddies
21 Run away from
22 Long-distance hauler

- 25 Magna ___ laude
26 Qtys.
27 Defeated
28 Mlle. in Barcelona
30 Fast-talks
35 Misty
36 Baseball family name
37 Lagoon
39 More dirty, as air
41 Put up with
44 Dashiell contemporary
45 Neigh homophone

- 47 Solder
48 Rustles
53 La Scala site
54 One-time petroleum biggie
55 Cheesy snack
56 Turkey neighbor
58 Coral reef
61 Takes steps
62 Davenport's state
63 Make small talk
64 Sammy or Danny
66 Unfold, in verse



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► Mike Vick and Andy Reid observe a moment of silence for Garrett Reid last Thursday. The team wrapped up an emotional few weeks yesterday in Bethlehem.

Eagles leave Lehigh, Reid to play starters first half vs. Patriots

► Birds return home, resume camp tomorrow ► Coach praises energy, hard work ► Team battles Pats Monday

The Eagles said good-bye to the plush campus of Lehigh University. The team will resume training camp tomorrow in South Philadelphia.

For the most part, the Eagles — especially the first-team offense — sleep-walked through their first preseason game last week. Still, coach Andy Reid praised the overall energy he has seen over the past few weeks.

"They busted their tail. People weren't trying to get out of practice or look for the easy way out of a drill," Reid said.

"Do we have a long way [to go]? Absolutely. We need the rest of this preseason to get ourselves right for the season. But at least there's a foundation there to build on."

Quarterback Mike Vick shared Reid's optimism.

"I know that we are very tough. We are a very tough football team," Vick said. "I know we have guys on this team who care and who want to win. We'll go the extra mile to make sure that we have a great chance of having success."

Reid confirmed the starters will play "at least" the first half in Monday's game against New England. NFL teams tend to play their starters the longest in the third preseason game, but with an unusual schedule — the Eagles have just three days off before taking on Cleveland Thursday night — the coach is switching it up.

"They [the starters] probably won't play quite as much against the Browns," Reid said.

MIKE GREGER
mgreger@metro.us

Lip service

As usual, Andy Reid started his press conference with an injury report ...

► There was only one injury to report yesterday as the Birds left Lehigh. CB Nnamdi Asomugha, who collided with S Nate Allen while trying to break up a pass Monday, passed concussion testing. Asomugha has "whiplash."

► "He was completely conscious the whole time. But he did get a pretty good laceration to his lip and the back of his neck is a little bit sore," Reid said.



► Asomugha

3

More drama



Chad, Evelyn set to split

Not shockingly, Evelyn Lozada, the wife of Chad Johnson, has filed for divorce.

In the aftermath of the couple's domestic abuse incident, in which Johnson allegedly head-butted her, the two are parting. Lozada issued a statement saying that Johnson "needs help."

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No invoices, no problem: Phillies refuse to give up

► Team not sending out playoff forms this year ► Phils still playing hard, hoping 89 victories can clinch wild-card spot ► 'All we have to do is win'

Playoff invoices normally hit the mailbox at this time. It's been a mid-August tradition for Phillies season-ticket holders. At this point, they receive a letter asking them if they would like postseason ducats.

Well, it's been a very different year. The fans have given up on the 2012 season. The Phillies waved a white flag when they sold off outfielders Shane Victorino and Hunter Pence, and starting pitcher Joe Blanton.

Everybody is talking 2013 — everyone except the players. They've noticed that some key contributors are gone, but don't tell them about the lack of playoff invoices. Despite being buried in the NL East, the Phillies still believe.

Quoted

"I hope it's time the Phillies get some breaks, because we still have plenty of baseball left in this season. All we have to do is win."

JOSH LINDBLOM

ON TV TODAY

Phillies at Marlins, 12:40 p.m. (CSN)

"I really think we can get back in this," Vance Worley said. "We put ourselves in a hole — but if we just win, we

can come back."

Let's say it takes 89 victories for the second, wild-card spot. That means the Phillies can't afford to lose more than 11 games with a month and a half of baseball left.

"We're not seven out with 17 left to play," Jimmy Rollins said.

The confident shortstop is referring to the Phillies' situation in 2007, when they miraculously surpassed the Mets on the last day of the season.

The 2012 Phillies were 11 back (entering last night) with six teams ahead of them.

"We know how to win," Rollins said. "And we have some key guys back."

Yes, the Phillies are a different team with Ryan Howard

and Chase Utley at the heart of the order. Roy Halladay is on the mound again, and he's finally pitching like a Cy Young winner. Cole Hamels, who owns a 22-inning scoreless streak, is in the Cy Young conversation, too.

But is it too late?

"I hope not," reliever Josh Lindblom said. "This team just didn't get the breaks earlier this season. When I was with the Dodgers, we had a lot of injuries just like the Phillies with Matt [Kemp] and Andre [Ethier] out but we got some breaks. And the Dodgers are right there in the NL West race."

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► Don't tell Hamels (13-6) the 2012 season is over. He ran his scoreless streak to 22 innings in Monday's 4-0 win.

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By now, you may have noticed the mini farmers markets spilling out of your neighbors' window boxes, down their steps and across their tiny backyards. The farm-to-table trend has hit home, even in cramped city quarters, thanks to creative container gardening.

Herbs and leafy vegetables, such as lettuce or chard, are perfect for growing in containers as long as they can get some sunlight and TLC, says Alice Edgerton of Graceful Gardens, an organic gardening company in Center City whose specialties include "edible landscapes." With a little extra maintenance, tomatoes, peppers and eggplants can work well, too. (If you haven't already started your garden, check out nurseries for some preplanted produce.)

"It's possible to grow a ton of food in containers, so that is often the easiest bet if you are a renter," Edgerton says. "But you probably need to give up your dreams of growing anything sprawling, like watermelons or pumpkins."

Whether you're planning

for next year or are in the midst of maintaining your finicky tomatoes, Edgerton shares a few tips for your pint-sized farm.

Choose a container

"You can plant in pretty much anything — plants don't care if they're in a coffee can or a Ming vase," says Edgerton.

Make sure whatever container you choose has drainage holes and wasn't used to store anything toxic that could seep into your veggies. Knowing how spaced out your seeds or plants should be will determine how big a container you need.

Save some green

The Fairmount Park Organic Recycling Center gives out free compost; just bring your li-

cense to prove you're a Philly resident. Compost by itself is a little too heavy for container gardening, Edgerton says, so make a mixture that's part compost and part light soil.

Water, water everywhere

"You need to water more than you would planting in the ground," Edgerton says. "You can have the best soil and light, but if you don't water you're not going to have too much fun."

She recommends elevating the container off the ground to help drain excess water. On a deck, place something under the container to catch any liquid and avoid damaging the wood.

RACHEL VIGODA
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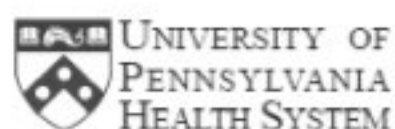


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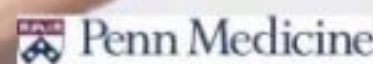
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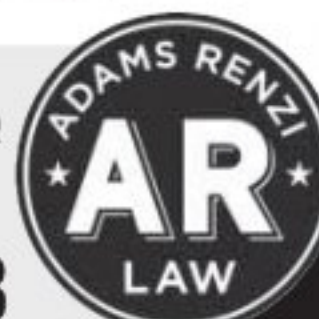
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- There will be no blood draws (no needles) during this clinical research study.
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